

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/663,860	MILLER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Pho M. Luu	2824

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 12/13/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. The drawings filed on 09/16/2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other Search History


RICHARD ELMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Allowance

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's Amendment, filed 13 December 2004.

The changes and remarks disclosed therein were considered.

2. Claims 1-30 are pending in the application.
3. Claims 1-30 is allowance.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art to:

"a plurality of hybrid comparands that are pipelined into the CAM array block during consecutive stages of the search operation comprising a virtual sector field and a data field" as claimed in the independent claim 1 and independent claim 22; or

"a plurality of hybrid comparands that are pipelined into the CAM array block during consecutive stages of the search operation comprising at least one multi-segment CAM array and a global mask cell sub-array" as claimed in the independent claim 6; or

"the CAM segment address which is configured to treat the virtual sector address and a second portion of the input address such as fields of a search word during pipelined search operations" as claimed in the independent claim 9; or

"the segment address signal that designates which ones of the plurality of segment are active and which other segment are globally masked during a staged segment to segment search operation" as claimed in the independent claim 11; or

"the global masked provide to the segmented CAM array during search operation and responsive to the CAM segment address" as claimed in the independent claim 14; or

"a first hybrid comparand comprising the virtual sector address and a second portion of the first input address" as claimed in the independent claim 27; or
"a content addressable memory device which is configured to generate an index in response to application of the N-bit comparnad during a search operation" as claimed in the independent claim 29.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Pho M. Luu whose telephone number is 571.272.1876. The examiners can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM – 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Richard Elms, can be reached on 571.272.1869. The official fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9306 for all official communications.

The information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PML
16 March 2005